सेक्स वर्कर्स के बच्चों के लिए शिशु-गृह

†206. **श्री पी॰ के॰ माहेश्वरी:** क्या महिला और बाल विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार की सेक्स वर्कर्स के बच्चों के लिए शिशु गृह यानि क्रेश खोलने की कोई योजना है;

(ख) क्या सरकार सेक्स वर्कर्स को लाइसेंस देने की योजना बना रही हैं; और

(ग) क्या सेक्स वर्कर्स के बच्चों के लिए खोले जाने वाले शिशु गृहों की योजना हाल ही में आरंभ की गई राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय शिशु गृह योजना के अंतर्गत होगी?

महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी): (क) कामकाजी माताओं के बच्चों के लिए राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय शिशु गृह स्कीम सरकार द्वारा 1 जनवरी, 2006 से शुरू की गयी है। यह स्कीम उन सभी कामकाजी माताओं के बच्चों के लिए है, जिनकी पारिवारिक आय 12,000/- रुपये प्रति माह से कम है। यौन कर्मियों के बच्चे भी इस स्कीम के अन्तर्गत लाभ प्राप्त करने के पात्र हैं।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) भाग (क) में दिये गए उत्तर के अनुसार।

Creches for the children of sex-workers

†*206. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open crèches for the children of sex-workers;

(b) whether Government are planning to give licenses to sex workers;

(c) whether the scheme of opening of crèches for the children of sex workers would come under the Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Shishu Grih Yojana launched recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers has been launched by the Government with effect from 1st January, 2006. The scheme is applicable to the children of all working mothers whose family income is less than Rs. 12,000/- per month. Children of sex workers are also eligible under the scheme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As replied in part (a).

SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Sir, I am disappointed with the reply which has been received from the Ministry. I had put in a very specific question that whether the crèches would be opened for sex workers' children which are needed in rural and urban areas and in metros also, and whether these children would come under the purview of Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme or not. The Ministry's reply is that these crèches, which are being opened, will be available for children of those working women, whose income would be below Rs. 12000 per month. Sir, I had only asked them whether they are opening these crèches, specifically for the children of sex workers, and whether these NGOs which are now involved.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has said that that is also covered under the Scheme.

SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Sir, that is covered under the same Scheme, but I wanted to know whether the crèches are being opened specifically for sex workers' children.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Member feels that this is an ambiguous reply. To start with, in any crèche scheme, we don't discriminate between sex workers' children or other people's children. As Government, we are opening, we are enabling and empowering people to take the crèche scheme for any working mother whose income is below Rs. 12,000 per month and it can be opened anywhere as it is already being done, in places like Kolkata, Maharashtra, Varanasi, etc. Some of the people who wanted to access this have accessed it and these crèches exist in redlight areas also. So, what is the dichotomy here? It is very clear and it is very specific.

SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Sir, I wanted to know, if it is possible, whether the NGOs, which are involved in looking after street children and others, will be financially supported by the Ministry to open these crèches for such children.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: First of all, there are several schemes which have enabled people to open crèches like these. And, if the NGOs want to come up and open crèches, they should avail themselves of the scheme which is available with us.

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, my question may not be directly related to the crèches but in the last Session, the

Parliament had passed a Bill for setting up the Commission for Protection of the Child Rights.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This has nothing to do with this. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Krishna Murthy, this will not go. This does not come under the purview... (*Interruptions*)... This is related to crèches.

SHRI B.K. KRISHNA MURTHY: Sir, it is related to the children. It is a clarification. It is related to the children. Sir, because the Bill relating to the Commission had been passed... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: children are different; creches are different. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B.K. KRISHNA MURTHY: I want to know: why has the Commission not been established? When is it going to be established? Sir, it involves children, and, we have an opportunity to ask the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It should be the relevant subject.

SHRI B.K. KRISHNA MURTHY: Sir, even crèches are protecting the children. They are not doing anything else. There also, they are required to protect the children... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Member has expressed concern about the child rights. Sir, the Cabinet has passed it and I am very happy to inform that the Commission will be established very soon.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Thank you, Sir. I am also disappointed with the reply given by the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)...

(Hon. Member spoke in Telugu)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: (Spoke in Telugu)

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: (Spoke in Telugu).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, only both of you are... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: (Spoke in Telugu).

Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the working women but sex workers are not the working women. Sir, due to poverty, illiteracy and non-availability of minimum needs, most of the women are forced to become sex workers. Sir, so many so-called welfare schemes are not giving any relief or livelihood to the sex workers. Sir, even the children of the sex workers are not being taken care of by the Government. They are not only neglected but they are also ill-treated by the society.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Is there any Census or any data available with the Government regarding this, and, whether there is any plan to incorporate special provisions for taking special care of these children.

Madam, both women and children come under your Department, and, therefore, you should take care of sex workers and also of their children.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is a very serious problem and I am very happy to inform the House that several steps have been taken so that children of sex workers could be looked after. More importantly, we have got a lot of support from the sex workers themselves who do not want their children to be involved in the same profession. Several NGOs, who have been pro-active and supportive in this, have come forward and established methods and norms by which these children can go into alternate education systems. Of course, it is a problem that has plagued our society for so long, and, it is imperative that we, in Parliament, take conscious decision to facilitate these children to lead a normal life.

With regard to the other very valid point raised by the hon. Member, I would say that people do treat these children very cruelly. So, in order to change the mindset and to learn to be a more egalitarian society, it would be a joint effort by all of us here. Only then, we will be able to change that mindset and show these women a sustainable development activity that they can take up instead of sex work.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the proposal to open a crèche for the children of Members of Parliament. What progress has been made as yet?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is a very important thing. When we tell the rest of the country what to do, I think, it is imperative that Parliament first implements what it preaches to others. About the crèche to be established in Parliament, I have already written to the Speaker and I am awaiting orders from there. I remember the time when I came here as a young mother. When I came in Rajya Sabha for the first time, I was the youngest Member and I had a small baby. I don't think any working women should ever have to make a choice of 'either'/'or' that is, either have a baby or take up a profession.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.